

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 FAA-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 TRSE-00 /023 W
-----250045Z 091173 /22
P 250021Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1066

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 03677

E.O. 1165:N/A

TAGS: CPRS: RETURN OF STOLEN AND EMBEZZLED AIRCRAFT
SUBJECT: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON AUTOMOBILE THEFT
(IACAT)

REF: STATE 063694, MEXICO 2811, 3339, 3341

1. THUS FAR UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM, THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ISSUED ORDERS FOR THE RELEASE OF SEVENTEEN AIRCRAFT OF AMERICAN REGISTRY, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED CONVENTION CASES INITIATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FORMER CONVENTION PROCEDURES THROUGH THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. FIVE AIRCRAFT HAVE ALREADY BEEN RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AND ONE MORE IS ONLY AWAITING NECESSARY REPAIRS. HITCHES HAVE DEVELOPED IN SEVERAL OF THE REMAINING CASES WHERE THE AIRCRAFT IS IN THE CUSTODY OF A JUDGE WHO IS UNWILLING TO RELINQUISH JURISDICTION. WE ARE PURSUING THESE CASES THROUGH THE AG'S OFFICE.

2. JUDGING FROM SOME TELEPHONE CALLS AND LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED, WE GATHER THAT THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG AIRCRAFT OWNERS IN THE UNITED STATES AS TO THE NATURE OF THE NEW PROGRAM. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS NO COMMITMENT BY THE GOM TO
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RETURN ALL AIRCRAFT OF AMERICAN REGISTRY WHICH HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN MEXICO. AT PRESENT, THE ONLY COMMITMENT IS THAT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO RETURN TO THEIR OWNERS THOSE AIRCRAFT AND MOTOR VEHICLES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WHICH ARE RETURNABLE UNDER THE CONVENTION. WE HAVE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ASSURANCE OF HIS ASSISTANCE IN

ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE RETURN OF AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES IN THE CUSTODY OF OTHER AGENCIES OF THE GOM, PROVIDED THEY ARE RETURNABLE UNDER THE CONVENTION. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IS NOT AT PRESENT WILLING TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE RECOVERY OF AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES SEIZED FOR MINOR INFRACTIONS OF MEXICAN LAW BY THEIR OWNERS OR BY PERSONS OPERATING THEM WITH THE OWNER'S KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED A TRIAL CASE IN THIS CATEGORY WHICH RECEIVED A NEGATIVE RESPONSE. RECOVERING SUCH AIRCRAFT AND VEHICLES COULD CONCEIVABLY BECOME POSSIBLE LATER, AFTER THOSE DETERMINED TO BE RETURNABLE UNDER THE CONVENTION ARE DISPOSED OF, BUT BELIEF THAT THEY WILL BE RECOVERED SHOULD NOT NOW BE ENCOURAGED.

3. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IS PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THE 288 AIRCRAFT IN THE LIST PRESENTED BY THE EMBASSY ON MARCH 14 (MEXICO 2811). SEVERAL MORE AIRPLANES HAVE SINCE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST. THE EMBASSY HAS ENLISTED THE AID OF THE FAA AND IATB IN IDENTIFYING AIRPLANES ON THE LIST WHICH WERE STOLEN OR EMBEZZLED IN THE UNITED STATES AND ARE THEREFORE RECOVERABLE UNDER THE CONVENTION. IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS, BUT WE HAVE VERY TENTATIVE INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST THIRTY TO FORTY OF THE PLANES ON THE LIST WILL FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY IF THEY CAN BE LOCATED.

4. WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE AG A LIST OF 62 AUTOMOBILE
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CONVENTION CASES ORIGINALLY INITIATED THROUGH THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. OUR ONLY EXPERIENCE WITH THE RECOVERY OF AUTOMOBILES UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURES WAS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARREST OF THREE AMERICANS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF THREE VEHICLES. (MEXICO 3339, 3340, 334L, CASC). THAT THE CARS HAD BEEN STOLEN IN THE US WAS VERIFIED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ATTACHE AND THEY WERE RELEASED TO THE EMBASSY THROUGH A PROCEDURE SIMILAR TO THAT ESTABLISHED FOR THE RECOVERY OF AIRCRAFT. THE CARS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED OVER TO THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATB. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THERE WAS SOME RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS TO RELEASE THE CARS, BUT THIS WAS OVERCOME BY THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF THE AG'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER. THE RELEASE OF THE VEHICLES WAS SECURED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THEIR SEIZURE AND WITHIN EIGHT HOURS OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LETTER REQUESTING RELEASE.

5. WE HAVE APPROACHED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
FEDERAL REGISTRY OF AUTOMOBILES WITH THE SUGGESTION
THAT AN ARRANGEMENT BE ESTABLISHED WITH HIS AGENCY
SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS WITH THE AG'S
OFFICE, AND FOUND HIM RECEPTIVE. AT HIS REQUEST, WE
ARE COMMITTING THE PROPOSAL TO WRITING AND HOPE TO
HAVE A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT

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EB-08 TRSE-00 /023 W
-----250045Z 091361 /22
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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REMAINS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
CUSTOMS, WHO IS LIKELY TO PROVE RECALCITRANT. IT WILL
BE RECALLED THAT OF THE AIRPLANES WHICH THE SECRETARIAT
OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICIALLY ADVISED US LAST YEAR
WERE RELEASED, AT LEAST TWO ARE STILL IN THE CUSTODY
OF CUSTOMS AND ATTEMPTS TO RECOVER THEM CONTINUE.
THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO03677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770102-0004
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770322/aaaaastz.tel
Line Count: 153
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e93bd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Reference: 77 STATE 63694, 77 MEXICO 2811
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2997911
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON AUTOMOBILE THEFT (IACAT)
TAGS: SENV, IT, US
To: STATE
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e93bd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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